REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 9, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-25 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-25 stand rejected.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for a clarification she made during a phone conference. Examiner explained that although independent Claim 1 is not addressed in detail, Claim 10 is addressed in detail, and that the arguments given with regard to Claim 10 also apply to Claim 1.

Applicant also would like to note that on Page 3, Paragraph 9 of the instant Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-20, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stevenson et al. and further in view of Baird et al. Applicant assumes, due to the text of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) being recited in the preceding paragraph, that it was the Examiner's intent to reject Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-20, and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevenson in view of Baird. However, if this was not the Examiner's intent, Applicant respectfully submits that this use of multiple references in a Section 102(e) rejection is not a proper rejection. A 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection over multiple references "has been held to be proper when the extra references are cited to: Prove the primary reference contains an "enabled disclosure;" Explain the meaning of a term used in the primary reference; or Show that a characteristic not disclosed in the reference is inherent." MPEP § 2131.01. Applicant respectfully submits that Baird is not cited for any of these three reasons, but rather, is cited to show features not described in Stevenson. For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant requests that the Section 102(e) rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-20, and 22-25 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-20, and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevenson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,257,585) and further in view of Baird et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0188603) is respectfully traversed.

Stevenson describes a system for augmenting data from a source data file (30) with data from a reference database (39), thereby generating an augmented data file (50). The source data file (30) resides on a server on a network (33). A handler (36) retrieves the source data file (30) for use by the system. A locator (42) examines the retrieved source data file (30) for comparison to the reference database (39) according to an analyzing strategy. The locator (42) compares structured data from the source data file (30) and reference data from the reference database (39), and provides the reference data to an analyzer (45). The analyzer (45) creates associations between each compared structured datum and a uniform resource locator (URL) address within each corresponding reference datum found by the locator (42). A generator (48) then embeds each URL address in the source data file (30), resulting in the augmented data file (50). Notably, Stevenson does not describe nor suggest selecting an object from an electronic document displayed on a client system, displaying a function menu on the client system, transmitting a selected object and a selected function, or processing the selected object by applying the selected function. Furthermore, Stevenson does not describe nor suggest transmitting a processed object from the server system to a target web server, receiving a result from the target web server at the server system, or determining whether further processing of the result is necessary to complete the selected function.

Baird describes a method for automating a search over the Internet. A user selects (100) data such as a text string from within an application. The selected data is used by a search engine to perform (104) an Internet search, without requiring the user to leave the application. When the search is complete, the search results are returned (106) to the user within the application. The user may also choose a particular search engine to use as a default search engine. Notably, Baird does not describe nor suggest displaying a function menu on a client system to prompt a user to select a desired function to be applied to the selected object. Rather, Baird only describes performing an Internet search using selected data within an application. Also, Baird does not describe nor suggest transmitting a processed object from the server system to a target web server, receiving a result from the target web server at the server system, or determining whether further processing of the result is necessary to complete the selected function.

11

Claim 1 recites a method for retrieving information using a server system coupled to a centralized database and at least one client system. The method includes "selecting an object from an electronic document displayed on a client system . . . displaying a function menu on the client system to prompt a user to select a desired function to apply to the selected object . . . transmitting the selected object and the selected function from the client system to the server system . . . processing the selected object by applying the selected function to the selected object at the server system to produce a processed object . . . transmitting the processed object from the server system to a target web server . . . receiving a result from the target web server at the server system, the result including at least a resulting web page . . . determining whether further processing of the result is necessary to complete the selected function . . . ."

No combination of Stevenson and Baird describes or suggests a method for retrieving information using a server system coupled to a centralized database as is recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Stevenson and Baird describes or suggests transmitting a processed object from a server system to a target web server, receiving a result from the target web server at the server system, and determining whether further processing of the result is necessary to complete the selected function. Rather, and in contrast to the recitations of Claim 1, Stevenson describes comparing the contents of a source data file to the contents of a reference database and generating an augmented data file that includes the source data file and data from the reference database, and Baird describes selecting search terms, initiating a search action, passing the requested search into a search engine, and returning the results of the search to the user.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird.

Claims 2-3 and 5-9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-3 and 5-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-3 and 5-9 likewise are patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird.

Claim 10 recites a network based system for retrieving information, wherein the system includes a client system comprising a user interface and a browser, a centralized database for storing information, and a server system configured to be coupled to the client system and the database. The server system is further configured to, "enable a user to select an object from an electronic document displayed on said user interface . . . display a function menu on said user interface to prompt a user to select a desired function to apply to the selected object . . . receive the selected object and the selected function from said client system . . . process the selected object by applying the selected function to the selected object to produce a processed object . . . transmit the processed object from the server system to a target web server . . . receive a result from the target web server at the server system, the result including at least a resulting web page . . . determine whether further processing of the result is necessary to complete the selected function . . . ."

No combination of Stevenson and Baird describes or suggests a network based system for retrieving information as is recited in Claim 10. More specifically, no combination of Stevenson and Baird describes or suggests transmitting a processed object from a server system to a target web server, receiving a result from the target web server at the server system, and determining whether further processing of the result is necessary to complete the selected function. Rather, and in contrast to the recitations of Claim 10, Stevenson describes comparing the contents of a source data file to the contents of a reference database and generating an augmented data file that includes the source data file and data from the reference database, and Baird describes selecting search terms, initiating a search action, passing the requested search into a search engine, and returning the results of the search to the user.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird.

Claims 11-14 and 16-18 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11-14 and 16-18 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 11-14 and 16-18 likewise are patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird.

Claim 19 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for retrieving information using a server system coupled to a client system and a database, the client system including a user interface. The program includes a code segment that prompts a user to select an object from an electronic document displayed on the user interface "and then displays a function menu on the user interface to prompt the user to select a desired function to apply to the selected object . . . transmits the selected object and the selected function from the client system to the server system . . . processes the selected object by applying the selected function to the selected object at the server system to produce a processed object . . . transmits the processed object from the server system to a target web server . . . receives a result from the target web server at the server system, the result including at least a resulting web page . . . determines whether further processing of the result is necessary to complete the selected function . . . ."

No combination of Stevenson and Baird describes or suggests a computer program for retrieving information, as is recited in Claim 19. More specifically, no combination of Stevenson and Baird describes or suggests transmitting a processed object from a server system to a target web server, receiving a result from the target web server at the server system, and determining whether further processing of the result is necessary to complete the selected function. Rather, and in contrast to the recitations of Claim 19, Stevenson describes comparing the contents of a source data file to the contents of a reference database and generating an augmented data file that includes the source data file and data from the reference database, and Baird describes selecting search terms, initiating a search action, passing the requested search into a search engine, and returning the results of the search to the user.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird.

Claims 20 and 22-25 depend from independent Claim 19. When the recitations of Claims 20 and 22-25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 20 and 22-25 likewise are patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird.

14

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-20, and 22-25 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 4, 15, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Bates et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,735,347) is respectfully traversed.

Stevenson and Baird are described above. Bates describes a method and system (200) for copying images from a source document to a destination document in a computer user interface (300). A user is given the option to cut or copy information from an image within the source document and to extract the textual information from the cut or copied image, enabling the extracted text to be pasted into the destination document as text. The textual information is extracted from the cut or copied image using optical character recognition (OCR) techniques. When instructed by the user, the user interface (300) copies the image, uses OCR to locate textual information within the image, and then pastes the located textual information into the destination document.

Claim 4 depends from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

As discussed above, no combination of Stevenson and Baird describes or suggests a method for retrieving information as recited in Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that Bates does not make up for the deficiencies of Stevenson and Baird. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Bates.

When the recitations of Claim 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 4 likewise is patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Bates.

Claim 15 depends from independent Claim 10, which is recited above.

As discussed above, no combination of Stevenson and Baird describes or suggests a network based system for retrieving information as recited in Claim 10. Applicant

respectfully submits that Bates does not make up for the deficiencies of Stevenson and Baird. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Bates.

When the recitations of Claim 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 15 likewise is patentable over Stevenson in view of Bates.

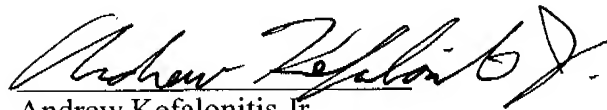Claim 21 depends from independent Claim 19, which is recited above.

As discussed above, no combination of Stevenson and Baird describes or suggests a computer program for retrieving information as recited in Claim 19. Applicant respectfully submits that Bates does not make up for the deficiencies of Stevenson and Baird. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 19 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Bates.

When the recitations of Claim 21 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 21 likewise is patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Bates.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4, 15, and 21 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Kefalonitis Jr.
Registration No. 57,240
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070